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Subject Tuition on research grants

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To: All West Campus Faculty

Following full discussion of the topic on campus during the last few months, I am writing to inform you of an important change to campus policy concerning requests to outside agencies for funding for graduate students (RF & SBF) that will take effect March 15, 2004. All proposals submitted on or following March 15, 2004 must include tuition at the full time, in state rate for all graduate students for whom stipend support is requested. The only exceptions will be in cases where the printed policy of the funding organization prohibits such awards. Tuition costs are to be budgeted as a direct cost and will NOT incur either fringe benefit or indirect costs.

Beginning in Spring 2005, all grants that employ students as RAs that were submitted on or following March 15, 2004 will be assessed the NYS cost of tuition for each semester that the student is employed on that grant. Current rates are \$3,450 per semester for G1 and G3 students (those who have not yet completed, with posted final grades, 24 graduate credits), \$2,592 per semester for G2 and G4 students (those with posted grades for 24 graduate credits but not yet advanced to candidacy). After a student has been enrolled for eight semesters in the program, OR at advancement to candidacy (whichever comes LATER), the tuition will decrease to six credits per semester at the NYS rate (\$1,728 per semester) until the student graduates. The Dean of the Graduate School will be authorized to waive the charging of tuition to particular grants in special circumstances (such as small awards that cannot cover a stipend unless tuition is waived).

I have made this decision following extensive discussion and evaluation of the current practices at peer public universities. Our graduate and research enterprise has benefited for many years through the University cost sharing for graduate stipend and tuition support. In recent years we have added state-funds in order to increase the number and value of TA/GA stipends. As Stony Brook, along with many other universities, faces significant budget pressures I find it necessary to scale back state-purpose expenditures for graduate student support to previous levels. In response to budget pressures we have already cut back on the number of TA/GA lines for 2003-04 and we can no longer afford to finance, from state purpose funds, the stipend supplement programs known as Presidential and University fellowships. At the same time, we need to maintain, or even improve, recruitment stipend levels in order to remain competitive for the best students. Recovering some of the tuition costs from grants is consistent with practices at all the better research universities.

The funds recovered from research grants to cover the in-state portion of the tuition costs for RAs will accrue to an account that will be used to support graduate student stipends. Based on the current numbers of RAs, this program should result in about \$3M per year once equilibrium is reached (assumes recovery of 80% of

potential after waivers).

How will these funds be used? Two thirds of the funds (at steady state this should be about \$2M) will be returned via the Dean to the Department, Graduate Program or Unit whose faculty's grants generated the tuition payments. These funds will be available to support graduate education (stipends, tuition payments, etc.) at the Department's discretion and should enable programs to replace Presidential and University fellowship funding, which will be withdrawn as soon as possible. The other third of the funds will be administered by the Dean of the Graduate School and will be restricted to graduate student stipend support. The expectation is that these funds will enable further increases to recruitment stipends and restoration of the "science lines" program to enable doctoral programs to grow enrollment. The net result of these changes will be to increase by about 20-25% the funds available to support recruitment stipends, which is about the level that graduate program directors and external reviewers tell us is needed for us to make competitive offers to the best of our applicants.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or Lawrence Martin (Dean of the Graduate School) if you have any questions about this new policy.

Xc: President Kenny
Vice Presidents
Deans
D. Melucci
K. Gray